received regarding the plan of Al Qaeda operatives to blast some airports in the Southern part of the country.

(c) An alert was issued immediately by the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) to all agencies concerned at the airports in the country to take all precautionary measures to prevent any unfortunate incident.

Revision of fuel surcharges

1356. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION
be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to softening of crude oil prices in the international market, State owned oil companies have cut Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) prices by around 8 per cent;

(b) whether it is also a fact that most of the domestic carriers are charging fuel surcharge of between Rs.350 to 650 on every air ticket;

(c) whether it is also a fact that airline operator's are not passing on the benefit to consumers; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. The average domestic ATF price has declined by about 8% from Rs.42300/ kilolitre in October, 2006 to Rs.38800/ kilolitre in November, 2006.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Domestic air fares are not regulated by the Government after the repeal of Air Corporation Act, 1953. Domestic airlines are free to charge air fares in their commercial judgement.

New terminal at Delhi airport

1357. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Government are working on construction of a new runway and new airport terminal at Delhi airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how much time it will take for its functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Delhi International Airport Private Limited (DIAL) is working on the construction of a new runway and new airport passenger terminal building at Delhi airport.

(b) The new runway will be 4.4 km long and A-380 compatible. The new Passenger Terminal Building will have 55 contact gates, catering to both domestic and international traffic. With these new facilities, the airport will be able to handle 37 million passengers per annum.

(c) The new runway and Passenger Terminal Building are expected to be completed by March, 2008 and March, 2010 respectively.

Review of norms for new airlines

1358. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are likely to take a fresh look at the existing entry barriers for new airlines to enter the Indian skies, maintaining that there has been no clampdown on issuing fresh licenses to serious players;

(b) whether Government are planning to erect a host of checks and balances to permit only serious and financially sound aviation ventures as airline industry is cruising deeper into red zone and losses are mounting;

(c) if so, what are the other main reasons for revising the entry barriers; and

(d) by when final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) The Government has a laid down policy with regard to grant of No-Objection Certificate (NOC) to new airlines. This policy is reviewed from time to time depending on the growth and requirements of civil aviation sector.